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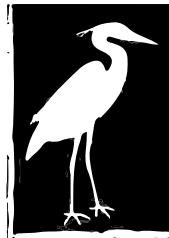
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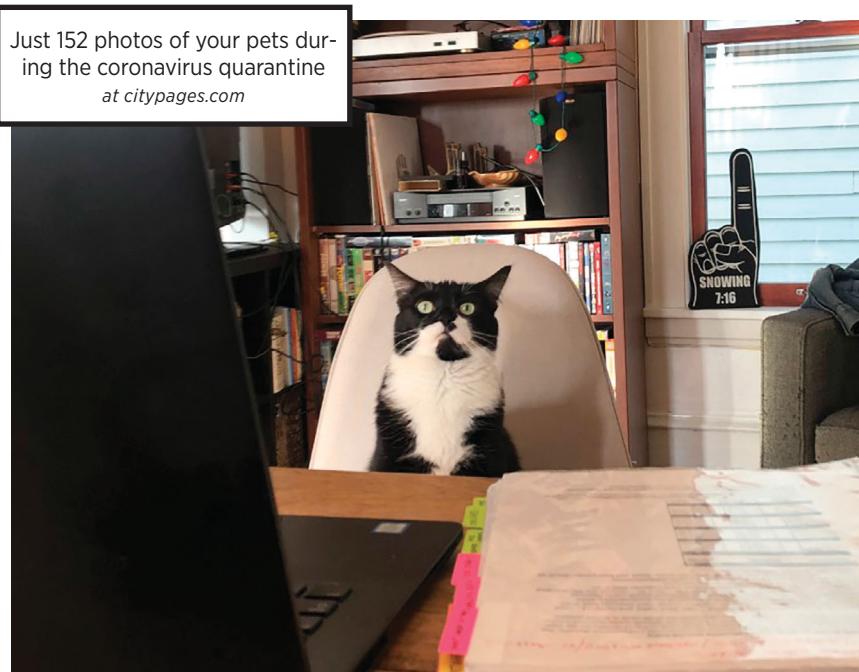
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THE SHORTLIST

Just 152 photos of your pets during the coronavirus quarantine
at citypages.com



EMILY CASSEL

THE STAT SHEET

40%-80%

Gov. Tim Walz's prediction for Minnesotans that will be infected with COVID-19

40%

Cut in Metro Transit service starting Wednesday

6 feet

The distance you should be keeping from others right now – yes, even in parks and on paths

262

Confirmed COVID-19 cases in MN as of the morning of March 24, a number that's certainly spiked since this was printed

"You know things are getting bad when a story about toenails is considered enjoyable."

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FULTON

Reader Joe Tierney responds to "Are these LeBron James's toenails? A Minneapolis mystery" at citypages.com

GIMME SHELTER

CITIES AND STATES around the U.S. have been issuing shelter-in-place orders to combat COVID-19's spread, something Gov. Tim Walz has said is a possibility for Minnesota (though not just yet). But what would one entail? Well, it hasn't meant total lockdown in the states that have issued such an order so far, but rather an order for folks to leave only for essential needs (groceries, medical supplies). Those who work in health care and other industries deemed essential can still go to work; businesses like grocery stores, banks, and newsrooms (like ours!) have also remained open. And yes: In many states, liquor stores have been allowed to stay open, too.

POPULAR STORIES AT CITYPAGES.COM

Meet a nice St. Paul family that thinks it's got **CORONAVIRUS**

Minneapolis bars, restaurants '**CLOSING OR LIMITING ACCESS**' under state of emergency

A spooky tour of Minneapolis's mostly **DESERTED SKYWAYS**

Wanna buy a whimsical **1920S MINI CASTLE** on the St. Croix River?

Wild Mind **ARTISAN ALES SUED** its former brewer. Then things got ugly.

DON'T COME KNOCKING

Minnesota property manager bans visitors during pandemic

Welcome back to another week in pandemic mode. Hopefully you've been staying home as much as you can, washing your hands, and limiting human contact.

One local property management company is taking some added precautions.

Core Living, a Minnetonka company with apartments across the Midwest—including Mezzo, Spectrum, and N&E in Minneapolis—issued a notice to its residents last Friday. “Out of an abundance of caution,” a few new policies were going into effect. “Friends, extended families, and all other visitors” would be barred from entry, unless they were caregivers or nurses for a resident—and they definitely weren’t allowed to use the gym.

Vendors and contractors would only be allowed on a “case-by-case” basis. If your apartment needed maintenance and

it wasn’t an emergency, it would have to wait. If you want to move in, you can—provided you are “asymptomatic.” Core Living is on lockdown.

The notice was signed by Todd Eatmon, president of Core Living, who acknowledged this as a “difficult” directive.

“We will work with you to ensure that you and your families are still able to connect in innovative ways,” it said. “We do not want our residents to feel isolated or alone. Our staff is committed to doing all that we can to keep you healthy and safe, while still helping you lead fulfilling lives.”

In a statement, a spokesperson with Core Living called the strict policy “an effort to keep our residents and staff safe and healthy.”

“With apartments being closer quarters with many shared spaces, this is one proactive measure we’re hoping helps keep the community at large safe,” it said.



CORE LIVING

Visitation has already been limited or cut off entirely at various nursing homes, hospitals, and prisons across the state.

Meanwhile, Minnesota’s share of confirmed coronavirus cases has nearly doubled from last Thursday (when 89 cases were known) through Tuesday (262 cases). Minnesota also saw its first death from COVID-19 last weekend.

Something like the limits imposed on Mezzo might eventually go statewide. On Friday, Gov. Tim Walz said he’s considering imposing a shelter in place order.

“I recognize that this has been an incredibly hard week,” Walz said. “This has probably been one of the most confusing and disruptive weeks that many Minnesotans have ever seen.” —HANNAH JONES

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2020 VISION

WHAT SHOULD THE TWIN CITIES LOOK LIKE TOMORROW?

TWENTY YEARS AGO, City Pages asked a broad selection of notable local people one question: “If you could change one thing about the Twin Cities in order to make life better here, what would it be?”

We published the results in our first issue of the year 2000, at a time when people were looking forward to the start of a new millennium, and the responses ranged from fun and flippant to rigorous and wonky.

But 2000 was a long time ago. It was before 9/11, the “war on terror,” the Great Recession, the first African-American president, and the vicious resurgence of white nationalism. And locally, the Twin Cities had yet to construct a failed mall at Block E and numerous (yet-unfailed) sports stadiums, or witness the rise of a vibrant restaurant culture. Prince was very much alive. The future those people were asked to imagine? We’re living in it.

That got us wondering how people would answer the same question today. And so we asked. Artists and politicians, historians and poets, comedians and restaurateurs—we wanted to hear from them all.

And then... well, the future took an unexpected turn. As you read these answers, remember that we received them before we found ourselves in a national health crisis whose effects could reshape how we live at a fundamental level. Nobody can predict how the Twin Cities—or Minnesota, or the U.S., or the world—will change as a result.

Then again, who can ever predict how things will change? Whatever happens in the upcoming months, however disruptive, there will be a future. And if we have to rebuild, here are some ideas for the planners of tomorrow to kick around. —KEITH HARRIS

CHAD KAMPE

EVENT PROMOTER, FLIP PHONE

I know people from St. Paul won't like this, but the big thing I would love to see would be Minneapolis and St. Paul becoming one large city together to create a dynamic cultural landscape. This would make it easier for everyone to get to the cities' shared resources, to get out of that mentality of "I'm going from one city to another." If I could just snap my fingers, there would be just one major downtown—they're so far from each other now that people who live in one never go to the other.

DAYNA FRANKPRESIDENT AND CEO,
FIRST AVENUE PRODUCTIONS

Minneapolis-St. Paul needs to continue working on improving the quality of life for every single resident. We top a ton of stunning lists, and we should, but we can't ignore the lists on which we place last. The Twin Cities needs to work for all residents. We need to improve access to steady and meaningful employment, to transportation and to affordable housing, while we focus on improving equitable access to things that bring us joy, like our parks, lakes, and our brilliant entertainment scene.

That and a Twins World Series victory would be nice.

TODD KEMERYVICE PRESIDENT, PARALYZED
VETERANS OF AMERICA,
MINNESOTA CHAPTER

As a quadriplegic and a wheelchair user, if I had the power to prioritize anything, it would be snow removal at all curb cuts and draining any water or slush in front of them. Piles of snow and slush obviously block the path of travel of those with mobility issues, but what is often not considered is proper drainage. When I encounter any standing water or slush, my ability to see the surface is gone. I can't see any hidden trip hazard, and if I trip or get seriously stuck on an extremely cold day, there's the potential for frostbite or worse. Having a spinal cord injury/disorder or any neuromuscular condition that results in limited or missing muscle control means cold and muscle groups begin to stiffen after five to ten minutes. The danger then becomes the inability to push or control a wheelchair or to transfer in or out of a vehicle, transfer in or out of a wheelchair, or to open doors and push buttons. Tragic results can escalate quickly if someone is stuck out of doors and can't use their hands or arms.

HODAN HASSANMINNESOTA STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 62A
I would love to see the opioid epidemic combatted. I hope members of our com-

munity are not dying of overdose or committing suicide because we don't have comprehensive mental healthcare. Opioids are an acute problem in my district—if you walk around in the Franklin Avenue and Bloomington Avenue area, you can see syringes everywhere. We need to fund the problem appropriately—last session we did get \$40 million from big pharma, but I think we already know what the problem is. Many of the communities struggling with opioids have

engaged in sustainable business practices for 20 years. Yes, I'm still angry about some of our MnDot decisions, like the one where a train could have been put in an existing trench where density and people already are for \$50 million, as opposed to through 45 acres of woods and under a lake for \$2 billion. My hopes for our city are many, but responsible use of our lands as a way to ensure our North's clean air and water is high up on my list for my kid's future.

"WE TOP A TON OF STUNNING LISTS, AND WE SHOULD, BUT WE CAN'T IGNORE THE LISTS ON WHICH WE PLACE LAST."

huge historical trauma, of poverty, racism, discrimination. Being homeless is hard, poverty is hard, and it's expensive to be poor, so people are finding ways to deal with their pain.

KIM BARTMANN

RESTAURATEUR

Twenty years ago [when I responded to this same question], I was an angry tree-hugger, despondent about the potential bulldozing of the Camp Coldwater Spring, and yes, selfishly, my long-time spot for walking with friends and dogs along the river and in the woods. Now I'm what I'd like to call a tree-hugger with stats, having built LEED-certified projects and

**SAYMOUKDA
VONGSAY**

POET/PLAYWRIGHT

I want to live in a foragable city. I want to see fruits and vegetables growing abundantly. Replace empty lots, bare exterior walls, and abandoned structures with edible flowers, plants, fruits, and vegetables. Make every block look like a salad. Pea pods climbing the IDS tower. Beautiful and delicious. Clean our rivers and lakes and let herbs and watercress take over. End plastic bottles and grow crunchy water—cucumbers, chestnuts, bean sprouts, and jicama. Give everyone olive oil and salt for on-the-go/anytime-anyplace simple dressing.

Also, chandeliers hanging on all the trees because we all deserve a bit of fancy in our lives.

PETER RACHELEFFCO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY

I'd like to change the teaching of American history in the public schools—its content and its pedagogy. The content should include attention to the expropriation of indigenous people, the enslavement of Africans, the exploitation of immigrants, conflicts around race, class, and gender, and how these experiences and issues are inter-related. The pedagogy should include techniques that empower students as the tellers of stories, as being responsible for defining critical issues and shaping narratives. At the East Side Freedom Library we have seen the value of such changes in the hundreds of middle and high school students who have engaged with us through the National History Day program. These changes can impact how young people understand themselves and their place in American history.

**MARIA REGAN
GONZALEZ**

MAYOR OF RICHFIELD

I'd eliminate the sweeping racial inequities we face in outcomes and opportunities, making us one of the worst places in the country to live for people of color. We need a Twin Cities region where homes, affordable quality child care, health, leadership positions, educational attainment, well-paying jobs, and access to opportunities are afforded



to everyone, not just some. Could you imagine a Twin Cities region that would instead be recognized for its ability to truly welcome and leverage diversity as an asset? We have the tools to make this a reality, like the ability to substantially invest in community-based solutions and getting serious about resourcing, hiring, electing, investing in, and retaining leaders of color to be successful across all industries and sectors.

JEREMIAH ELLISON
MINNEAPOLIS CITY COUNCIL
MEMBER, WARD 5

I would lower rents—both housing and commercial rent, especially the storefronts that small businesses operate out of, whether this means rent stabilization or rent control. The mayor and I have been working on a few things, and we're looking to everything we're able to do—and learning what we can and can't do. As the city becomes less and less affordable for working-class folks, the task seems daunting. But we're gonna put our money where our mouth is.

FANCY RAY MCCLOONEY
THE BEST LOOKIN' MAN
IN COMEDY

Three ways to change the Twin Cities for the better: 1. Lower parking rates in downtown areas. Businesses are hurting in both downtowns. 2. No more winter weather after January 15. Snowbirds would stay here year round. 3. More Prince and Fancy Ray murals around the Cities. Prince makes Minneapolitans proud and Fancy Ray makes those same folks feel good.

ANN KIM
RESTAURATEUR
I hope to see Minneapolis/St. Paul be the epicenter of innovation in food, the arts, technology, medical advancements, and climate change. This may seem like a grandiose vision, but if you don't see it, you can't be it. There's no reason why the Twin Cities can't be looked to like New York or L.A. as an incubator for innovation and trendsetting. We just have to claim it, commit to it, support

“THE TWIN CITIES NEEDS TO WORK FOR ALL RESIDENTS.”

it, and do it. I believe this can be done by working collaboratively with leaders across disciplines to see where our individual/organizational goals intersect to support the greater vision of excellence. It starts from the top with inspired leaders working toward a long game, taking meaningful risks, thinking big, embracing change, and telling fear to fuck off.

MITRA JALALI
ST. PAUL CITY COUNCIL MEMBER,
WARD 4

I want to see our city have a mix of more new and integrated neighborhoods, with some of these really thriving, long-time communities of color able to stay in the city, and build wealth, and have political

empowerment. I want the character of the city to feel palpably different. Our community has, to many, felt like an old town, that the loudest voices are wealthier white homeowners, whose priorities are reflected. We're actually 51 percent renters, a majority are people of color and indigenous, and the median age is 31. I want us to be more weird, and be more new-feeling.

RANA MAY
COMIC

April 2020: Donald Trump and Mike Pence die, and many people break quarantine to celebrate. Some of them die.

April 2021: The pandemic funeral episode of *Grey's Anatomy* is the most watched event in TV history.

September 2021: A vaccination is available, but only for the elderly. People fake passports and dye their hair gray. Vaccine doses are transported on buses full of sneezing children so they don't get robbed.

2023: One lab working on a cheaper vaccine accidentally creates winged cats who can fly up to 100 miles. The cats congregate in the trees like crows and hunt people.

2031: The newly installed cat-person dictator is laser focused on cat-related policy, but still grants universal healthcare, subsidized housing for all, prison reform, and immigration reform. Everyone is forced to have one cat. Unless they're allergic.

TRICIA HEURING
CO-FOUNDER, PUBLIC
FUNCTIONARY

Instead of the city holding vacant spaces for wealthy developers to turn into luxury

housing, underutilized space would be gifted to community organizers and arts leaders who live in that neighborhood. Systems could be set up so that organizers would have at least a year, rent-free, to design their space and operations with and for their communities. Each space would come with a two-year start-up operating grant, so they are resourced from day one. Perhaps then we would have inclusive, accessible multi-disciplinary community and art spaces that pass from generation to generation in every single neighborhood.

FREE BLACK DIRT
ARTIST COLLECTIVE

If Free Black Dirt ruled the world (imagine that?)—or the microcosm of it within Minneapolis—we would center healing and reparations as a vision for transformation in our city for indigenous, black, POC, and refugee communities, who've been historically foreclosed from wealth and are currently being gentrified from the center of our city. Some specific programs we would put into establishment are:

A reparations-funded network of beautiful healing spaces and spas, with an array of healing modalities from acupuncture, bodywork, herbalism, and other ancestral therapies. Historically oppressed and marginalized communities would get access. So many crystals and images of powerful BIPOC ancestors.

A queer, black imagitorium and library with extended fellowships for reading and retreat. There will be copious pillows, tea, and treats.

Implementing a radical healing of the K-12 Minnesota curriculum that centers the history, futures, and resilience of indigenous, black, POC, immigrant, and LGBTQIA+ communities in our state, as well as an analysis of the destructiveness and persistence of white supremacy in our world.

Amazing and abundantly funded art programs in ALL neighborhoods for people of all ages to learn visual art, dance, theater, meditation, plus roller skate and dream!

Create a free and mandatory therapeutic program for all white-bodied folks and people of European descent to do some deep dive healing around whiteness and white supremacy. Something like a Hazelden for whiteness.

Legalizing cannabis with a reparations focus for the black, brown, and low-income people who suffered most under the war on drugs to have prioritized access to the industry.

Clean, beautiful, spacious, and eco-friendly housing for all, with edible gardens and community space for peace and pleasure.

An anti-gentrification plan and task force.

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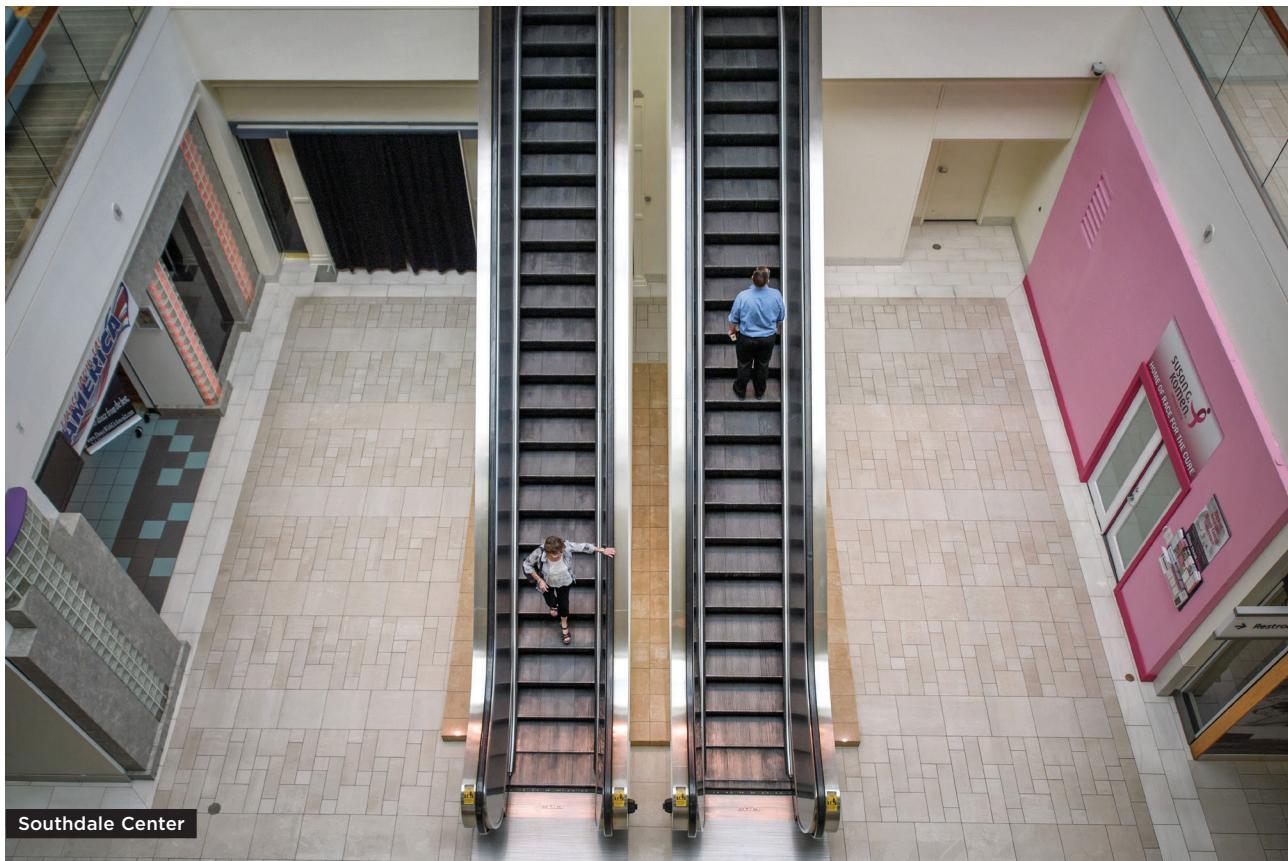
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The More Things Change

Is Minneapolis-St. Paul a better place than it was 20 years ago?

BY KEITH HARRIS

TWENTY YEARS AGO, when we asked people how they would change the Twin Cities for the better, we used the headline “When You Wish Upon a City.” With that in mind, let’s take a look at a handful of the wishes people made at the time, and how many of them have been granted in the years since.

RICHARD FLOOD

FORMER CHIEF CURATOR,
WALKER ART CENTER

WISH: The ongoing dumbing-down of the city’s skyline and the Mississippi’s shoreline is one thing I would love to see change. The absence of architectural vision and innovation is progressively turning our vertical city into a cluster of undifferentiated high-rises with rental-information banners as their only distinguishing features. I hope that in the new millennium, those people with the money to build and those who issue their permits will stop and think more about what makes a great city and less about what it costs per square foot.

GRANTED? Well, the Mississippi riverfront is a livelier place than it was 20 years ago, thanks in part to the completion of

Jean Nouvel’s idiosyncratically designed Guthrie Theater. And if Hennepin County Commissioner Mike Opat gets his way, a nearly mile-long curved “Wishbone” promenade will one day stretch just above St. Anthony Falls. Then again, there’s the

IT'S HARD TO EVEN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE TO SEE A SMOKE-FILLED CLUB.

proliferation of featureless, cookie-cutter condos across the Twin Cities over the past 15 years, which no one would claim display “architectural vision and innovation.”

GENE SAMPSON

CO-FOUNDER OF BIG DADDY'S OLD KENTUCKY BAR-B-QUE

WISH: I would make St. Paul more vibrant in the Lowertown area. Put a baseball stadium there, maybe, though that’s voted against already. I’ve had a business in St. Paul since 1979—my place is in Lowertown,

on Fourth Street, in the old Union Depot. After 5 p.m., they just roll up the sidewalks around here and call it quits. People need to come see me more; don’t let me get so lonely at night.

GRANTED? In 2015, the new home of the St. Paul Saints, CHS Field, opened in Lowertown. And extensive renovations to Union Depot were completed in 2012. These are just two of the major investments the city has made in that neighborhood, though St. Paul nightlife still hasn’t caught up with its more metropolitan twin’s. As for Big Daddy’s, it left Lowertown years ago, and eventually settled on University Avenue in the Rondo neighborhood in 2008.

SKIP HUMPHREY

FORMER MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL

WISH: I’d want to see Minnesota become smoke-free, so we can have a whole new generation of young children that live happier and healthier lives.

GRANTED? In 2005 Minneapolis led the way with a (then-controversial) ban on smoking indoors. St. Paul was next in

2006. And in 2007 the state of Minnesota enacted similar legislation. Now it’s hard to even remember what it was like to see a band in a smoke-filled club. Perhaps not coincidentally, the number of smokers in Minnesota has dropped sharply since 2000, from nearly 20 percent of the population to below 14 percent. Vaping? Well, that’s a whole ‘nother story.

MICHELLE HENSLEY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
TEN THOUSAND THINGS
THEATER COMPANY

WISH: I would make all suburban shopping malls disappear, to get rid of an incredibly ugly blight, and force people to think about what else they can do with their lives besides buying things.

GRANTED? The malls still exist, but (aside from the Mall of America, which is as much a tourist attraction as a shopping center) they’re struggling to retain retail chains. Southdale has been partially rescued by taking in a DVS and a library, and the question of what to do with these complexes when they’re no longer commercially viable is a pressing one. Who could have suspected back in 2000 that an online bookseller would one day make some people nostalgic for what was then the ultimate symbol of suburban commercial vacuousness?

NELLIE STONE JOHNSON

LABOR MOVEMENT VETERAN
(DIED 2002)

WISH: It’s very simple for me. It would be for equal opportunity for people of color in education and employment. There is such a big discrepancy here between white and black people in this. It seems like there’s more training and concern given to each other by animals than what we do. I always come back to a job—everyone’s got to have some way to work and make money to take care of themselves and their families, and that comes back down to having an education. We’re just not doing the best we could for people of color in this regard, and that’s a shame.

GRANTED? Not even close. The numbers tell a grim story of racial disparity. For instance, white poverty is at 7 percent, while 32 percent of African-Americans live in poverty—the third worst gap for any state in the country. Similar gaps persist in employment, education, and homeownership. “We’re just not doing the best we could for people of color” remains as true as ever, and that’s still a shame.

ERIC TRETBAR

FILMMAKER

WISH: I would eliminate all the parking meters. With a \$2 billion state surplus, who needs 25-cent meters?

GRANTED? Hahahahahahahahaha. 



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BY DAN SAMORODNITSKY

The tartar sauce in the kitchen at St. Albert the Great is everything I'd dreamed of. It quivers in a huge bowl, doled out from an enormous jar. They're going to need that jar and more. People are coming for this meal: They're going to serve 900 people 120 pounds of cabbage and 30 pounds of sour cream (among other things) before the first Lenten fish fry of 2020 is through. (This was pre-social distancing, of course.)

I just moved here a year ago from New York, and I love, voyeuristically, what I imagine to be "Midwest culture." Wood paneling, "Bless This Mess" needlepoint hanging on the walls, ranch dressing. It's goyishe. It's a hidden part of my personality; I don't decorate my home this way, nor do I openly boast about my tackiness, except for right now. But now I'm here, in the Midwest. And what better time and place to indulge in my voyeurism than at St. Albert the Great's Friday fish fry, one of the most popular in the Twin Cities?

Maybe it's obvious by now but I'm also Jewish. Since I became aware of Lenten fish fries, I've metaphorically stood outside churches and fogged their windows. I've never even been in a church except in a tourist capacity, though I've been dying to go. Crisp fish and wet coleslaw are signifiers of this culture that is new but warmly enveloping me more each day. I have to go.

So on Friday, February 28, I... go.

A man in a cowboy hat—*holy shit!* a cowboy hat!—greets people at the door. St. Albert's fish fry is so popular that attendees are led down to the cafeteria in stages, leaving people milling around in the sanctuary. I see hugs, small children running around, and a guitar-and-flute band called Light of the Moon playing. I'm already feeling a buzz of excitement, and I'm just sitting in the pews staring at people. It's open and happy, without the somberness I'm used to in places of worship.

The second person I make eye contact with sits with me for 15 minutes. They talk about how open St. Albert's is, how they had moved here from another parish that had gone in a less progressive direction. "This parish is love," they say. I mention that this was all new to me, and that I was Jewish. They exclaim, "Oy gevalt! Oy vey! Baruch atah adonai elohenu" in a way that I suppose was meant to be funny and welcoming. At the time, I laugh along

EXPEDITION TO THE FISH FRY

A voyeur of Midwest culture dives in



The author's once-in-a-lifetime dinner from St. Albert the Great

DAN SAMORODNITSKY

but think about this incident for days afterward, wondering why I just sat there while he, essentially, mocked me to my face. What compelled him to do that?

Nevertheless, upon walking downstairs, I am immediately overwhelmed. There are just so many goddamn people here. I ask multiple times which way to go, where to get a ticket, how to get food. Everyone is happy, everyone is serene. Everyone looks healthy, everyone is laughing.

I am viciously out of my element, which is saying a lot since I don't have an element. There isn't a Jew in sight. These people aren't just gentiles, they're goys. It's goy on goy. A sea of goy.

I forget to ask who decided to serve spaghetti, mashed potatoes, hash browns, and bread on the same plate. I sit down

next to Terri and Larry. They watch as I take a dozen photos of my food and, when I tell them why I'm there, immediately introduce me to Bryan, the volunteer who's in charge of the food. He puts his hand on my shoulder and proudly leads me through the kitchen.

It is *pulsating* in there, like a legit restaurant kitchen on a hopping Friday night, but staffed by retirees and the occasional small child. An industrial stand-mixer constantly whirs through instant mashed potatoes. Four stock pots are filled with spaghetti. The fryer never stops spitting out fish. Bryan's hand, like Jesus's, stays on my shoulder, except for when I see another volunteer dolloping out the tartar sauce. I rush over to take a picture. It's sublime.

I finally sit back down to my fish that is, miraculously, still crisp. Eating it with some of that tartar sauce and washing it down with lemonade is thrilling. Terri tells me about her great-grandparents, a Lithuanian Jewish woman married to a Scot, who ended up living on an Ojibwe reservation in northern Minnesota. She and her husband, Larry, guard my slice of blueberry pie after Bryan comes back to give me a history of the church.

Bryan also makes a point of introducing me to Mike Levey. Mike wears white gloves and a top hat, dressed as a 1940s elevator man because he's working the elevator, which has three stops. He's the only other Jew in the building, so far as I know. He's been volunteering at St. Albert's fish fries for seven years for all the same reasons everyone else is there: He likes the community. I promise to ride the elevator on my way out and chat with him, and he seems happy when I do.

I want desperately to feel angry or resentful at St. Albert's but I'm not. There are no breads of affliction here and there never will be. Isn't that strange?

This church is a surreal celebration, the gargantuan meal one smashing victory after another. A hash brown on top of a pile of spaghetti bathed in tomato sauce, next to mashed potatoes, next to coleslaw, all surrounding fried fish in the center of the plate. That's not even to mention the shooter of lobster bisque, a warm piece of crusty bread, a brownie, and a slice of blueberry pie with the filling spilling out the sides. It's all delicious.

Even though anger is banished, alienation isn't. I can't help feeling bitter toward these warm, friendly people. They pass me from person to person, each one nicer than the last, telling me what they love about St. Albert's, or the community, or the fish fry itself, and my through-the-looking-glass feelings don't shrink. I hate that I feel this way. I sit there and try to imagine a Seder this happy, this cacophonous, this void of reminders of suffering.

Now I'm cured. Not of my lust for chintz, which will always be there. Bury me in a carpeted coffin. But now I've seen the inside of a church, been at the center of a fish fry where a crowd of nearly a thousand people all seemingly tore at my clothes. I don't need to wonder what the gentiles have going on in the church basement anymore.

They'll happily show me, even include me. But it's not for me, and never will be. At least now I know I don't want it. **CP**

WELCOME TO A-LIST. Each week, City Pages' A-List section spotlights the best happenings in town. But in the wake of COVID-19, pretty much everything outside of the house is canceled. This week, we check in with artists, choreographers, and hairstylists to see how they're coping.

As the numbers of COVID-19 cases rise in the Twin Cities, social distancing measures increase each day to stop the spread. Meanwhile, Twin Cities artists, makers, and performers are losing work as venues shutter, things get postponed indefinitely, and freelance opportunities dwindle. So what are they doing about it? They're moving online, re-evaluating approaches, and getting creative as they figure out how to survive in this time of crisis.

Riding through a pandemic as a contract worker

"I feel small and really big at the same time," says Vie Boheme, whose multidisciplinary piece *Centerplay* was set to open at the Guthrie Theater this month. "It's disappointing, but the entire world is getting canceled. It's not personal... I just have to sit still."

For now, all Boheme can do is wait. Like many artists, Boheme's freelance-based work means that her schedule has ups and downs. This month, she doesn't have much else to do because she had planned to prepare for her Guthrie show. While she has upcoming contracts and performances scheduled for the summer, she doesn't know if anything will actually happen.

Still, she's grateful for people who have reached out to her and donated to her fundraiser. "I feel completely human right now," Boheme says. "I feel very much a part of a community."

Theo Langason says he has lost thousands of dollars. His solo Red Eye Theater show, *Welcome Home/Home Edition*, was postponed, and many of his other teaching and contract work has been canceled.

He's trying to keep positive. "The best thing about [the cancellations] is that it can happen later without much trouble," he says of his production.

In addition to performing, Langason is a teaching artist for K-12 schools and higher ed, and often takes on corporate acting gigs out of town. In some cases, Langason says he has received a portion of the contracted income. But sometimes there isn't an actual contract in place;



ART IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

How artists, performers, and other creatives are getting by

BY SHEILA REGAN

instead a loose agreement is established over email. "That's the thing about being a contractor," he says. "Often the contracts themselves are mostly a gesture. It's like, sometimes we have them, sometimes we don't."

Still, Langason is trying to enjoy his break from work. "I could use a week off," he admits. "I know I'm not the only

one. Financial risk notwithstanding, the rest will be good for me. So I'm actually sort of thankful—not thankful for the cause, but I'm definitely trying to reap the rewards in that regard."

Museum and galleries close

"It's a huge disappointment," says Rachel Breen, whose show at the Minneapolis

Institute of Art's MAEP Galleries was postponed. "But oh my god, everybody is experiencing disappointment right now."

Breen is also trying to stay optimistic. She's especially encouraged by how the arts community continues to find ways to support each other, such as paying artists and workers for a show—even if it gets canceled—and experimenting



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Vie Boheme



STAR TRIBUNE

online. "Everything I'm seeing online is people asking, 'How do we navigate this as a community?'" she says.

The Water Bar's Shannai Matteson believes that artists are uniquely equipped to help lead the way in a crisis like COVID-19. "As community organizers and as artists that are working to prepare for climate change, we've been doing good prep work," Matteson says. "Our arts community is very creative and caring and resourceful; I think that we will figure some things out."

Local choreographer and visual artist Terry Hempfling also expects creative responses from artists in dire these dire times, and even has a practical example.

Hempfling is currently in Ohio, where she had not planned to be this month. She was supposed to head to New York for an event, and then stop in Philadelphia to take down her gallery exhibition. When the coronavirus numbers started to tick up, she went to stay with her mom in Ohio. Hempfling's mom is a 67-year-old nurse

who works part time in a hospice facility and part time in an inner-city hospital. "They get one mask to re-use indefinitely," she says. "They have to put it in a Ziplock bag between uses." The lack of supplies and safety resources has caused a lot of anxiety for her mom.

"My mom said, 'We need to rethink the masks thing. We need washable masks,'" says Hempfling. That got her thinking. "What ways that artists can help healthcare workers, when supplies that this country have are running out?"

Hempfling points out that artists like Leeza Meksin have already been working on artist-designed masks, artist-designed neoprene, and other types of supplies that can be disseminated and reused.

Art classes are morphing and moving online

Photography artist Pao Houa Her has an exhibition opening in Vancouver at the end of March, for which she won't be able

to attend the opening artist talk. Another show featuring Her in Singapore ended up calling off the opening reception in January because of the outbreak.

Her is also an adjunct instructor at Anoka Ramsey Community College and the University of Minnesota, both of which have moved classes online. That's tough for Her's photography courses, which require hands-on demonstrations. "We really haven't had time to plan," she says.

Her is juggling online teaching with taking care of her two kids (her niece and nephew, who she and her partner are raising) who are staying home from daycare. Still, things carry on. She says she has found a wealth of resources on social media via Facebook groups and Google docs, where artists and educators are sharing tips on modifying art pedagogy.

A new hope

"In Minneapolis, people are really fighting [to find] ways to continue making money

through art," says Hempfling. She points to the many resources that have popped up, including emergency grants, online spreadsheets connecting freelancers to work opportunities, and fundraising platforms like GoFundMe and Kickstarter.

On Hempfling's own Patreon account, some folks donate just \$2 a month. "For those that have resources and want to help, it's a good time to look at things like that," she says.

Susana di Palma, artistic director of Zorongo Flamenco Dance Theater, has canceled upcoming performances at the Cowles as well as the school's classes. Still, she is planning a party for when this is all over. "It's going to be such a celebration," she says. "We are going to dance for joy. It will be a glorious celebration of survival."

For a list of resources, links to Google Docs, guides, and more, check out our roundup of helpful sites for artists at citypages.com/arts. ☐



STAR TRIBUNE

THE PANDEMIC GETS UGLY

The local beauty scene is forced to close shop

BY KARA NESVIG

As part of an order from Governor Tim Walz, local salons and spas must close their doors until at least March 27. This has forced owners and stylists to make difficult decisions.

"I made the heartbreaking decision to close up my shop the day before the mandated shutdown," says Niki Robison, who owns Niki Robison Brow & Skin Studio in Eden Prairie. "I am so terrified of the economic implications, but I know this action will save lives."

"Just my small business alone put 30 people in Minnesota and 13 in Chicago out of a job for the time being," says Melanie Richards, who owns goGLOW sunless tanning salons across the metro. "I can't do anything to get the jobs back until we're out of this. In the meantime, every business is completely dependent on online sales, but nobody will be saved

by it by any means. Everyone is crippled by fear right now because of the unknown."

Richards is hopeful people will do the right thing and stay home. "I am grateful above all else for my health and my main priority is simply pleading for people to take this seriously so we can get our jobs and lives back."

Hairstylist Jenessa LaSota, who owns her own space, Vena Cava in the Sola Salons building, is also overwhelmed.

"Being in a community of artists, everyone really relies on each other for their own livelihood. I keep seeing posts about how we're all just passing around the same \$20 to keep each other afloat," she says. "It's making a huge case for socialism, which I'm a huge advocate for."

She made the decision to close her space before the mandate. "I love my clients a lot and I worry about everyone's safety," she says. "After speaking with friends who are immune-compromised, I made the hard

decision to close up shop out of a sense of responsibility to 'flatten the curve.'"

LaSota says her clients have been extremely supportive of her decision. "I have been giving out my Venmo handle if people would like to pay for services in advance for a later time, and gift card purchases are available online. I think that's the route most salons are taking. If people have steady income jobs and are able to work from home, I think it's huge to throw a few dollars to someone who solely relies on human interaction for income."

Haus Salon, which is closed (at least) until March 30, has come up with a creative way to support its stylists until its doors open again. The salon — which has locations in south Minneapolis, Northeast, and the North Loop — is allowing clients to schedule and prepay for services with their stylists and estheticians, providing staff with immediate support while they're unable to work. Stylists receive their full

commission, and clients can use the gift card toward a future service. Haus is also offering 20% off their online retail.

The salon employees are also supporting each other virtually. "We're helping each other navigate unemployment insurance applications, sharing logins to instructional videos, conducting group chats, sharing puzzles, checking in with each other, and sending tips on how to pass the time with kids," says Haus co-founder Jessica Reipke.

"I think we've all been doing a pretty good job when it comes down to local support and helping each other. I feel lucky to grow up and live in a place like Minneapolis," says LaSota. "But I really believe that we have put more pressure on people in positions of power to do a better job of helping under-privileged folks. We need policy change. We need to have resources readily available for when things like this do happen. We need health care for everyone." **CP**

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FILM

BLOW, ME

Blow the Man Down is a Coen-like black comedy you can stream during quarantine



AMAZON STUDIOS

BY TONY LIBERA

Going to the movies has always been a nice little escape from the world's bleaker realities—but now, in the middle of a pandemic, we...can't leave the house. Lucky-ish for us, we're living *la vida loca* in the streaming age. So while the big Hollywood studios shuffle their 2020 release schedules and AMC Theaters crumble to the ground, companies like Amazon find themselves uniquely primed (ahem) to provide sweet cinematic relief. Take that, Spielberg?

The newest film from the Bezos behemoth is a Coen-esque black comedy called *Blow the Man Down*. It's the story of two sisters covering up a murder, though it becomes one of those "There's more going on in this quaint New England town" movies pretty quick. There's nothing as sinister as Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery" happening, but drugs, predatory prostitution, and a little foul play show this ain't Martha's Vineyard either, kid. And while it's not so derivative as to just be *Fargo*, Maine, writer-directors Bridget Savage Cole and Danielle Krudy clearly took a page from our hometown boys.

Blow the Man Down kicks off with a rendition of its eponymous sea shanty,

performed by a group of gruff fishermen. The Greek chorus shtick always rings a bit too indie for me, but as a tone-setter, you can't deny the effectiveness of grizzled modern Mainers belting out a ditty as they sling fish.

We're soon introduced to a few of our key players, though we're given very little context at first. Priscilla and Mary Beth Connolly (Sophie Lowe and Morgan Saylor) mourn the death of their mother, while sorta-secret town madam Enid (esteemed character actress Margo Martindale) coolly watches the movie's first murder unfold. Mary Beth gets wicked hammered at her mom's wake, and after a spat with Priscilla, heads to the bar to make some bad decisions.

Mary Beth goes home with a stranger (Ebon Moss-Bachrach) and spots blood and hair lining the trunk of his car. She bolts, trying to hide down by the docks, but realizes she needs to take matters into her own hands and harpoons her pursuer through the neck. Now, big sis Pris needs to help clean things up with her trusty knife.

There's no mystery to the deed, so the fun's in watching the sisters try to cover their tracks. It's rare to see a thriller rely almost exclusively on female talent, and

Blow the Man Down

directed by Bridget Savage Cole and Danielle Krudy
Amazon Prime, now streaming

the approach offers more than a few fresh angles. "A lotta people underestimate women," Enid says. "That's why they get away with a lot."

Savage Cole and Krudy aren't trying to be too slick, though, which allows the story to sidestep some convoluted genre devices. You could see a bigger production playing a bit more with red herrings or dragging out the suspense. Instead, *Blow the Man Down* clips along at a cool hour and a half.

The flip side is that the movie can feel too simple and heavy-handed. While I have to think there's some self-awareness to overdoing the Chekhov's gun trope, I can't help but think a subtle approach would have suited the narrative a bit better. And put up against *Fargo* or *Thelma & Louise*—undoubtedly inspiration—this flick feels lacking.

So *Blow the Man Down* won't make a memorable splash, but you could do far worse for a quirky crime movie. And hey, it's not like you're going anywhere any time soon. **EP**

STAGE FRIGHT

How playwrights are vulnerable in the COVID-19 era

BY JAY GABLER

“I’m not worried that artists won’t make work. Look at the history of the world: Artists have always told stories,” says Jeremy Cohen. “The infrastructure to make that work, to keep people sustained to tell those stories, that’s where we really need to focus.”

Cohen is producing artistic director at the Playwrights’ Center, which at press time on Monday was preparing to announce new spring programming in response to the coronavirus pandemic. That includes “new classes, seminars, public discussions, and opportunities to share work, and a whole series of commissioned articles that we’re going to be releasing. Plus, we’re going to be launching a new reading series at least for the next couple of months so that we can share work and employ local theater artists.”

The rapid shuttering of public spaces had an immediate effect on actors, directors, crew members, and theater staff, who found their venues suddenly closed. The impact on playwrights was less visible, but could ultimately be even more severe. “It all happened really fast,” says playwright and actor Kate Hamill. “It happened within 48 to 72 hours. It was a complete shift in how everyone was able to plan their year.”

The NYC-based Hamill is currently in Minneapolis, for reasons that were highly anticipated but under circumstances that were certainly not. Her adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Emma* is part of the Guthrie Theater’s 2019-20 season; the world premiere was in rehearsals when the shutdown struck.

“I’m in the Guthrie’s housing,” says Hamill. “They very graciously have offered to allow me to stay until, basically, it’s safe to go back to New York.” Hamill’s husband, actor Jason O’Connell, was able to come join her after his own show had “what we are now calling a ‘clopening,’” Hamill says, “which is where you open and close the same night.”



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

At press time, *Emma* was still officially scheduled to begin public performances on April 11, but given the continuing health risks involving large gatherings, Hamill says, there’s “a lot of creative thinking happening right now.”

In some cases, theaters facing financial uncertainty are asking playwrights to return advance payments for new work. “You wouldn’t retroactively ask any other theater artist to pay back money,” says Cohen, noting that playwrights are “incredibly vulnerable” with no union protections. “Actors, directors, designers, stage managers, through unions [have] agreements...pretty much everyone other than the writer in the room.”

Both Cohen and Hamill say they’re watching the progress of proposed legislation that would allow freelance artists to collect unemployment benefits. Hamill also suggests that “if you have a ticket to a show that was canceled, consider not asking for a refund and treating it as a donation, because a lot of institutions are hurting right now.”

“Theaters were closed during plague times and theaters went on during the Blitz,” says Hamill. “Building back is part of our artistic legacy, but that doesn’t make it any easier in the moment.” **EP**



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ists in the midst of COVID-19. At the same time, Springboard has expanded their Personal Emergency Relief Fund guidelines to "include lost income due to the cancellation of a specific, scheduled gig or opportunity" related to the virus. Artists are able to request up to \$500 to compensate for scheduled and lost work.

After having to cancel all of their March shows (and probably beyond), First Avenue is pushing the Twin Cities Music Community Trust. "All funds donated will directly impact someone who has lost a gig due to COVID-19 and its effect on the industry. This includes night staff, door staff, bartenders, security, stage crews, tour managers, merch sellers, photographers, local musicians, and more," reads the Trust's website.

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Even a fraction of a cent helps. Make it play all day, on all devices. Mute if you must.

Crowdsourcing

As the situation continues, there's a good chance some GoFundMe and Kickstarter sites will pop up from local artists. Donate to them. Share them. "Sometimes you feel a little guilty for asking for that with so many other people needing things. You have to balance your desire for being helpful with your desire to stay alive," Nur-D says.

Venmo/Paypal/CashApp

Hey, everyone needs a treat sometimes. Ask artists you know if you can buy them lunch or send them the ticket fee you were refunded. Nur-D has set up an account @mnartistrelief where donations will be shared between a number of artists.

Patronize venues

Buy tickets to later events. Someone has to host all the shows we're going to have rescheduled, so help those venues stay in business. As pure SHIFTER's John Genz puts it, "We're gonna need them for the big post-pandemic orgy." ☀

LOCAL MUSIC UNDER QUARANTINE

Support Twin Cities musicians affected by coronavirus cancellations—without leaving your home

BY SOPHIE VILENSKY

First South by Southwest was canceled, then Coachella. Now all local music events are postponed due to COVID-19. Venues, festivals, DIY shows—you name it.

While these precautions are for the greater good, they leave many musicians out of a paycheck. What can be done for the artists (many self-employed) whose income revolves around touring and performing?

Livestreamed shows have become the new normal, but how about when we don't feel like dancing and being quippy on live chat? Or (god forbid) if the Instagram live server crashes?

Here are some ideas.

Patreon

The concept is simple: You like someone and you give them money, usually for something (a song, an early release, behind-the-scenes content) in return. Monthly payment options on the rapper Nur-D's site range from \$2 ("Too Sweet") to \$700 ("Paying My Rent Holy Buckets"). Duluth singer-songwriter Gaelynn Lea's lowest supporting level is just a dollar.

"We unfortunately don't live in a society where my rent can be paid with good intentions," Nur-D says.

Merch

Though not quite as fun as a merch table, most local bands have online stores where they sell their wares. As the pandemic continues, websites like missedtour.org are popping up to get all the goods in one place. Browse the many available T-shirt designs, then order six. May I interest you in the 4th Curtis "Shirley Temple" tee? A Gully Boys shirt designed by a Gully Boy themselves? Get comfortable!

Digital downloads

Many bands offer their albums via Bandcamp or other sites as digital downloads. Finally download that iTunes update. Dig out your old iPod shuffle. Collect them all. And here's a novel idea: Once that iTunes update is done, think about buying the album there as well. You're a collector now.

Emergency relief funds

Organizations like Springboard for the Arts have compiled resources for freelance art-

FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your oracle comes from Arles poet Octavio Paz: "The path the ancestors cleared is overgrown, unused. The other path, smooth and broad, is crowded with travelers. It goes nowhere. There's a third path: mine. Before me, no one. Behind me, no one. Alone, I find my way." APRIL FOOL! Although the passage by Octavio Paz is mostly accurate for your destiny during the rest of 2020, it's off-kilter in one way: It's too ponderously serious and melodramatic. You should find a way to carry out its advice with meditative grace and effervescent calm.

♉ TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A century ago, fiery writer Maxim Gorky and hard-ass Taurus politician Vladimir Lenin were listening to a Beethoven sonata together. "I can't listen to music too often," Lenin told his companion. "It affects your nerves, makes you want to say stupid, nice things." This is crucial advice for you to heed in the coming weeks, Taurus. You need to be as smart and tough as possible, so don't dare listen to music. APRIL FOOL! Lenin was half-mistaken, and I lied. The fact is, music makes you smarter and nicer, and those will be key assets for you to cultivate in the coming weeks. So yes, do listen to a lot of music.

♊ GEMINI (May 21-June 20): By the time he was 55 years old, Gemini author Thomas Hardy had written 18 novels and many poems. His stuff was good enough to win him two separate nominations for a Nobel Prize in Literature. But during the last 32 years of his life, he never wrote another novel. According to one theory, it was because he was discouraged by the negative reviews he got for his last novel. I suspect you may be at a similar juncture in your life, Gemini. Maybe it's time to give up on a beloved activity that hasn't garnered the level of success you'd hoped for. APRIL FOOL! The truth is, it is most definitely NOT time to lose hope and faith. Don't be like Hardy. Rededicate yourself to your passionate quests.

♋ CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian theologian John Wesley (1703-1791) was a Christian who embodied the liberal values that Christ actually taught. He advocated for the abolition of slavery, prison reform, the ordination of women priests, and a vegetarian diet. He gave away a lot of his money and administered many charities. To accomplish his life's work, he traveled 250,000 miles on horseback and preached 40,000 sermons. Let's make him your role model for the coming weeks. Be inspired by his life as you vividly express your care and compassion. APRIL FOOL! I lied a little bit. Although most of what I just recommended is a good idea, the part about traveling long distances, either on horseback or by other means, is not.

♌ LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The neurotic but talented French novelist Marcel Proust observed, "Everything vital in the world comes from neurotics. They alone have founded religions and composed our masterpieces." With that in mind, and in accordance with current astrological omens, I urge you to cultivate your own neurotic qualities in their extreme forms of expression during the coming weeks. You're due for some major creative breakthroughs. APRIL FOOL! I was kidding. The fact is, you can generate creative breakthroughs in the coming weeks by being poised and composed—not extra neurotic.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Virgo author Leon Edel wrote a five-volume biography of renowned author Henry James. In the course of his research, he read 15,000 letters that were written by James. He came to have a profound familiarity with the great man. In accordance with current astrological omens, I recommend that you choose a worthy character about whom you will become equally knowledgeable. APRIL FOOL! I lied. It's true that now is an excellent time to deepen your understanding of people you care about. But don't get as obsessed as Edel!

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): About 2,000 years ago, a Roman woman named Sulpicia wrote six short love poems—a total of 40 lines—that are still being analyzed and discussed by literary scholars today. I bring her to your attention because I think that in the next four weeks you, too, could generate a small burst of beauty that will still be appreciated 2,000 years from now. APRIL FOOL! I lied about the "small" part. The burst of beauty you create in the immediate future could actually be quite large, as well as enduring.

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): French poet Louis Aragon (1897-1982) was an influential novelist and a pioneer of surrealistic poetry. Much of his writing had a lyrical quality, and many of his poems were set to music. He also had a belligerent streak. Before the publication of one of his books, he announced that he would thrash any writer who dared to review it in print. Success! There were no critical reviews at all. I recommend his approach to you in the coming weeks. Make it impossible for anyone to criticize you. APRIL FOOL! I lied. I would never suggest that you use violence to accomplish your aims. And besides that, the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to solicit feedback of all varieties, even the critical kind.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I hesitate to be so blunt, but it's my duty to report the facts. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you should have as many orgasms as possible in the next 15 days. You need to tap into the transformative psychological power that's available through monumental eruptions of pleasure and releases of tension. (P.S. Spiritual orgasms will just as effective as physical orgasms.) APRIL FOOL! What I just said is true, but I left out an important component of your assignment: Be loving and responsible as you pursue your joyous climaxes, never manipulative or exploitative or insensitive.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Ancient Greek orator Demosthenes was renowned for his skill at delivering powerful, charismatic speeches. While he was still learning his craft, he resorted to extreme measures to improve. For example, there was a time when he shaved just half of his head. It made him ashamed to go out in public, forcing him to spend all his time indoors practicing his speeches. Would you consider a similar strategy right now? APRIL FOOL! I was just messing with you. It's true that the coming weeks will be a good time to minimize your socializing and devote yourself to hard work in behalf of a beloved dream. But shaving half your head isn't the best way to accomplish that.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to tell as many lies as possible if doing so helps you get what you want. I hereby authorize you to engage in massive deceptions, misrepresentations, and manipulative messages as you seek to impose your will on every flow of events. APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, everything I just said was the exact opposite of your actual horoscope, which is as follows: You have a sacred duty to tell more of the truth than you have ever been able to tell before. As you dig deeper to discover more and more of what's essential for you to understand and express, dedicate your efforts to the goal of gliding along with the most beautiful and interesting flow you can find.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Fifteen minutes before the Big Bang occurred, where was the matter that now constitutes your body and my body? And if, as seems to be true, the Big Bang was the beginning of time, what time was it fifteen minutes earlier? Questions like these are crucial for you to ponder in the next two weeks. APRIL FOOL! I lied. The questions I articulated should in fact be very low priority for you. In the immediate future, you'll be wise to be as concrete and specific and pragmatic as you can possibly be. Focus on up-close personal questions that you can actually solve, not abstract, unsolvable riddles.

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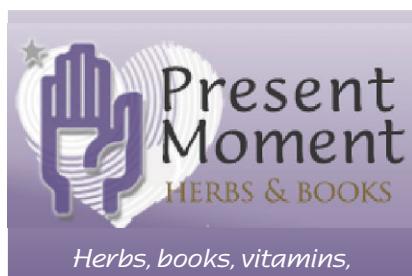
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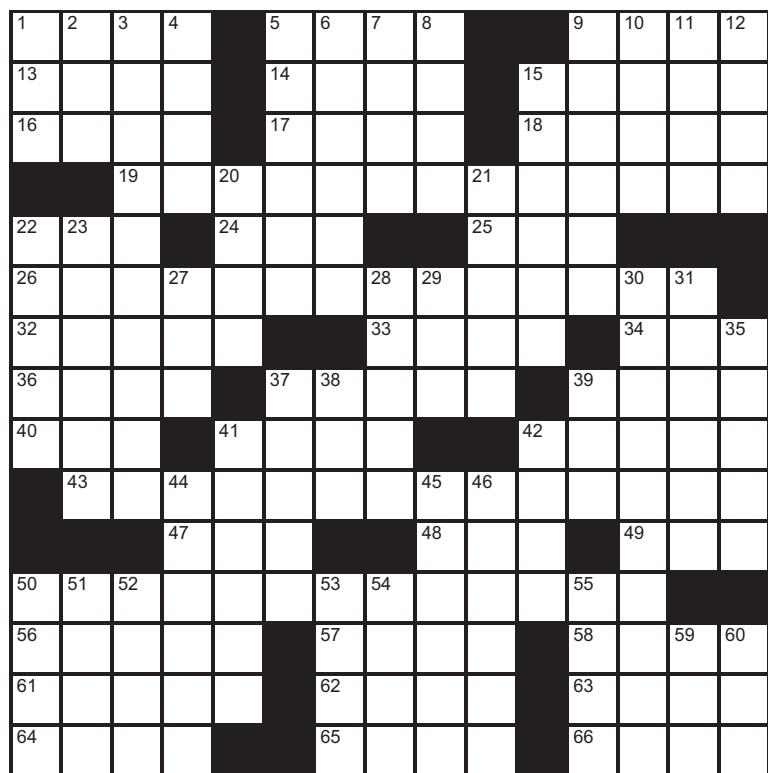


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BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

Across

1 The top (appropriately)
5 Who said "Hell is full of musical amateurs"
9 Spam's content
13 Steal
14 Two-time Grammy-winning gospel singer
15 V's meaning
16 Too big for a small cast
17 Scissors beater
18 Gets paid
19 Spot to put your sword away?
22 Poem that says how awesome you are
24 It makes you you
25 Band from Kyoto
26 Quieted police officers?
32 Suit maker Dupetit
33 Holly plant
34 "I can't believe you typed that!!!"
36 Dominate
37 "The Hate U Give" author
39 French pen pal
40 Eisenhower's bailiwick: Abbr.
41 "Have you considered?," initially
42 Team building?
43 Representative who goes, "wha?"
47 Portal owned by Verizon
48 Org. collecting money for schools
49 Many moons: Abbr.

50 Slobbish Ledger?
56 Green thumb's brand
57 ___ Half-Blood (setting for the "Percy Jackson" series)
58 Medium essay, e.g.
61 Prophet of the Old Testament
62 Test that will have a little back and forth
63 Boxer's meal
64 Elasticity-of-demand subj.
65 Abstainer's intake
66 Time to start acting

Down

1 Fluid in a yard
2 Steal
3 Six-time baseball All-Star whose uncles also played
4 Decorate, as glass
5 Leave someone hanging
6 Holler to from afar
7 Decorative entrance
8 Page in an edit war
9 Lungful by the shore
10 QB Derek
11 It can make your cheeks redder
12 Flat land
15 Where violin strings are attached
20 Garden for two
21 Like some credit cards
22 Airport 17 miles from the Loop
23 Minnesota city on Lake Superior
27 Waste no time

Last Week's Answer



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SAVAGE LOVE

Holing Up

Is it safe to keep seeing my ER doctor fuck buddy?

My question is on managing “gray area” intimacies during the pandemic. I have a lover/friend that I’ve been hanging out with—fucking, drinking tea, going on hikes, eating ice cream, watching movies, and other activities—for about nine months. He’s 36 and was married for 10 years, and due to that experience he’s been a bit emotionally “boundaried.” But he’s still really sweet and a good communicator. I’m in grad school doing a double master’s, so the small amount of time we’ve been spending together has worked well for me. Here’s the issue: He’s also an ER doctor. Do I keep seeing

him during this pandemic? I just moved to the city where we both live for my grad program and he’s my main source for connection, comfort, and support here. Every time I see him we both feel tremendously less stressed and our connection feels emotionally healthy. I just know he is bound to be at a huge risk for exposure, and since he’s not a committed partner and we don’t live together, I don’t know if he falls within or outside of my physical distancing boundary. It seems like the best thing to do from a logistical perspective is hole up with my cat and not see another soul in person until a vaccine is invented or something, but I don’t know when that will happen.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING DO'S AND DON'TS

"This is really a matter of a personal risk/benefit calculation,” said Dr. Daniel Summers, a pediatrician who lives and works near Boston. “What PDDAD is willing to accept as a risk may be different from what someone else would.”

And there’s definitely a health benefit to getting together—we are social animals and isolation is bad for us—but your lover is at high risk of infection. And when front-line health care providers get infected, they tend to get sicker than the average person who gets infected, according to CNN, which is something else you need to factor into your risk/benefit calculation. Additionally, does your boyfriend’s workplace—I’m going to call him your boyfriend for clarity’s sake—have the protective gear he needs to minimize his risk of exposure?

“We’re all doing our best to take as many preventive steps to lower our risk of being exposed,” said Dr. Summers, “but there’s still a maddeningly unacceptable shortage of personal protective equipment like masks, gowns, and gloves nationwide. I hope he has sufficient access to these things. But is there a risk he could get exposed to the virus at work? Definitely.”



Dan Savage

home from work. His clothes go straight into the washing machine, he goes straight into the shower.

“I’m still afraid of bringing it home,” said Dr. Summers. “But with four kids home from school, my husband’s sanity depends on my being present as much as I can. So for me, staying away isn’t an option. That’s not the case for PDDAD. She has to decide whether the undefinable risk of exposure isn’t worth it. Or, alternatively, she can decide the connection she has with him is important enough to her own well-being that the risk is worth it. But only she can make that decision for herself.”

If you decide the risk of infection is too great—or if your boyfriend decides the risk of infecting you is too great—you can still be there for each other. You can Skype and Zoom, you can text and sext, you can leave groceries on his porch and wave to him from the sidewalk. But if you decide to keep connecting with each other in person, PDDAD, you should minimize the amount of time you spend moving through the city to get to each other’s places. And that means—emotional boundaries be damned—picking one of your apartments to hole up in together for the duration.

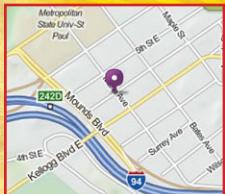
You can follow Dr. Summers on Twitter @WFKARS and you can read him at [Slate's Outward](#).

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